Adoption of two-child norm

2150. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has decided to enforce the two-child norm in the State barring its employees from having a third child;

(b) if so, whether any other State Governments are enforcing similar norm;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to enforce the two-child norm in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Rajasthan Government has issued a notification concerning all services in the State which stipulates that "no candidate shall be eligible for appointment to the service who has more than two children on or after 01-06-2002 :

> Provided that where a candidate has only one child from earlier delivery but more than one child are born out of a single subsequent delivery, the children so born shall be deemed to be one entity while counting the total number of children."

Further, it stipulates that "no person shall be considered for promotion for five recruitment years from the date on which his promotion becomes due, if he/she has more than two children on or after 1st June, 2002 :

> Provided that the person having more than two children shall not be deemed to be disqualified for promotion so long as the number of children he/she has on 1st June, 2002, does not increase".

(b) to (c) Government of Maharashtra has also decided that only small families will be eligible for subsidies under various Government Schemes. This norm is also applicable to the State Government employees for getting various facilities provided by the State Government, such as vehicle advance, house building advance, medical reimbursement etc. The acceptance of small family norm is being made an eligibility criteria for contesting elections to Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samities, Municipal Councils and Municipal Corporations.

(d) and (e) The National Population Policy adopted by Government of India in February, 2000 advocates for small family norm.

The family welfare programme is voluntary and promotive in nature which enables the couple to adopt the family planning methods, best suited to them, according to their choice, without any compulsion.

Decline in Sex Ratio

2151. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Drastic fall in country's sex ratio", which appeared in the Hindu, dated 28th October, 2001;

(b) if so, the present sex ratio, State-wise;

(c) the sex ratio during 1991 and 2001 and increase and decrease thereof State-wise;

(d) the names of the countries where population is similar to Indian population; and

(e) the action plan of Government to minimize/equalize the sex population in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement showing the State-wise sex ratios in the latest year (2001) and those along with changes during 1991-2001 is enclosed (*See* below).

(d) In terms of total population there is no country having similar population to Indian population. China is having the highest population (1277 million in 2000) followed by India (1027 milllion in 2001).

(e) The Government of India has enacted the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 for preventing misuse of sex determination tests. The implementation of the PNDT Act rests with the States/UTs. Other important steps taken by the Government of India are stated below:

The States/UTs have been advised to mount an effective awareness campaigns to make the public and service providers aware of the provision of the Act.